Government of Saskatchewan

This information is provided as a resource by Saskatchewan Agriculture staff.
All stated cattle prices are based on the weekly Canfax Market Outlook and Summary.
Please use this information at your own risk.

Cattle Market Update

For the Week Ending March 20, 2015

All prices are quoted in Canadian dollars per hundredweight ($/cwt) unless otherwise stated.

Saskatchewan Feeder Steer and Feeder Heifer Prices ($/cwt)

Feeder Steers		300-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-800	800-900	900+ lb.
March 20/2015	Average	$359.25	$342.30	$316.88	$292.00	$261.00	$239.50	$224.20
March 20/2015	Range	351-375	332-364	301-334	281-304	250-275	231-246	219-229
week/week	Change	$9.58	$1.20	$3.55	$7.80	$4.00	$0.58	$1.89
March 13/2015	Average	$349.67	$341.10	$313.33	$284.20	$257.00	$238.92	$222.31
Feeder Heifers		**300-400**	**400-500**	**500-600**	**600-700**	**700-800**	**800+ lb.**	
March 20/2015	Average	$323.17	$316.00	$292.63	$264.75	$242.20	$225.33	
March 20/2015	Range	315-337	305-331	282-309	253-277	232-254	219-233	
week/week	Change	-$1.96	$3.33	$5.30	$5.50	$2.40	$2.45	
March 13/2015	Average	$325.13	$312.67	$287.33	$259.25	$239.80	$222.88	

Source: CanFax

Note: Prices are determined from Saskatchewan auction marts' reports of sale results from Thursday of the previous week to Thursday of the current week. N.A. means not available due to lack of sufficient data.

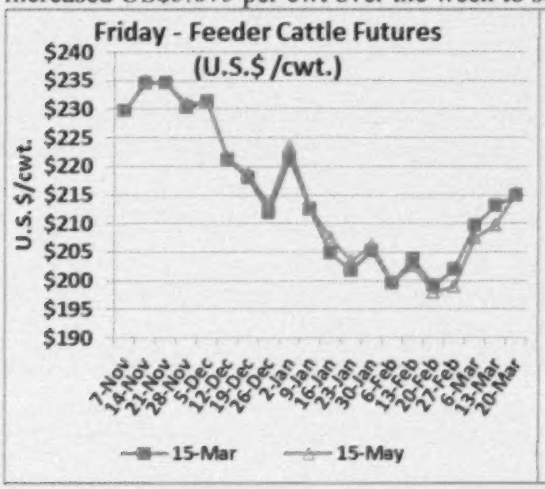
Canfax reported that a total of 14,632 head of cattle were sold in Saskatchewan this week, up from 13,482 head marketed the previous week. Saskatchewan feeder cattle prices were higher over the week on continued tight cattle supplies and strong demand.

Saskatchewan feeder steer prices over the week were higher in all categories. Prices increased between $0.58 per cwt and $9.58 per cwt. Prices in the 300-400 lb. weight category had the biggest gain over the week increasing $9.58 per cwt. New all-time high record prices were established in the 400-800 lb. feeder steer weight categories.

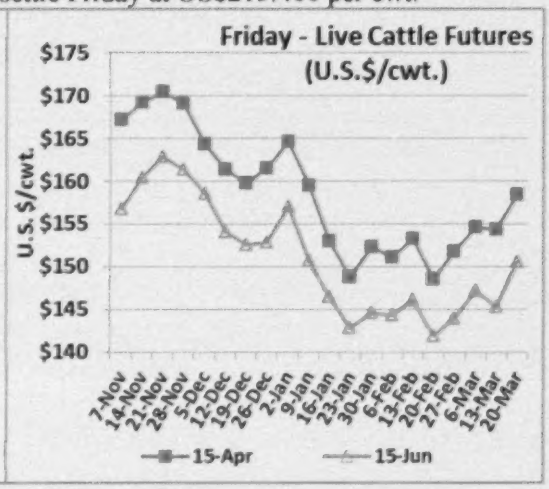
Feeder heifer prices were mostly higher over the week with losses only in the 300-400 lb. weight category. Feeder heifer prices ranged from $1.96 per cwt lower to $5.50 per cwt higher. The 600-700 lb. feeder heifer weight category had the biggest gain over the week increasing $5.50 per cwt. New all-time high record prices were established in ALL the feeder heifer weight categories except the 300-400 lb. feeder heifer weight category.

The Saskatchewan 750 lb. feeder steer basis compared to the March 19, 2015, U.S. feeder cattle index at US$213.97 per cwt was calculated at -$8.14 per cwt (US$213.97/0.7950-$261.00), a basis narrowing of $8.07 per cwt from -$16.21 per cwt on March 12, 2015.

Feeder cattle futures prices were mixed over the week but overall higher, week-over-week. The nearby contracts increased between US$1.750 and US$5.675 per cwt over the week. The March contract increased $1.750 per cwt to settle Friday at US$214.875 per cwt, while the May contract increased US$5.675 per cwt over the week to settle Friday at US$215.400 per cwt.



Source: CME



Source: CME

Live cattle futures prices were primarily higher over the week with nearby contracts increasing over US$4 per cwt, week-over-week. The April 2015 contract increased US$4.075 per cwt over the week to settle Friday at US$158.350 per cwt, while the June contract increased US$5.200 per cwt to settle Friday at US$150.475 per cwt.

Iowa cash corn prices moved higher over the week increasing 6 cents per bushel to end Friday at US$3.66 per bushel. Daily U.S. corn futures prices were mixed over the week but noticeably higher Friday to end the week higher, week-over-week. The May 2015 corn contract increased over 4 cents to settle Friday at $3.85 per bushel, while the July contract increased almost 5 cents to settle Friday at US$3.92¾ per bushel.

Fed and Non-fed Cattle

	March 20	March 13	Change over Week
Steers (Alberta)			
Live	196.78	n/a	n/a
Rail	319.00	n/a	n/a
Cows (Alberta)			
D1,2 Live	145.33	144.00	+1.33
D3 Live	128.10	128.13	- 0.03
Rail	277-282	273-277	+4/5.00

Source: Canfax. (n/a = not available, n/c = no change)

Prices for live weight, non-fed cattle in Alberta were overall higher over the week. The price of D1,2 slaughter cows increased $1.33 per cwt to average $145.33 per cwt, establishing a new all-time high record price for D1,2 slaughter cows. The price of D3 slaughter cows was almost unchanged, down only 3 cents to average $128.10 per cwt.

Cash fed prices in Western Canada for Alberta fed steer prices were reported to average $196.78 per cwt, establishing a new all-time high record price. Alberta fed steer prices were not reported the previous week and last reported two weeks ago during the week of March 6, 2015. Prices this week are $6.14 per cwt higher than the average reported price of $190.64 per cwt two weeks ago.

On March 20, 2015, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the monthly *Cattle on Feed Report* for February 1, 2015.

March 1, 2014 and 2015, Cattle on Feed (in U.S. feedlots with 1,000+ capacity)			
	2014	2015	Per cent of previous year
On feed February 1	10,678,000	10,713,000	100.3
Placed during February	1,658,000	1,523,000	91.9
Marketed during February	1,549,000	1,516,000	97.9
Other disappearance during February	71,000	62,000	87.3
On feed March 1	10,716,000	10,658,000	99.5

Source: USDA

The USDA Cattle on Feed (COF) report indicated that the number of cattle placed on feed in February 2015 was 1.523 million head, down 8.1 per cent from 1.658 million head in February 2014, and down 14.9 per cent from 1.789 million head in January 2015. The number of fed cattle marketed in February 2015 was 1.516 million head, down 2.1 per cent from 1.549 million head in February 2014, and down 6.7 per cent from 1.625 million head marketed in January 2015. The February cattle placements were just over one per cent below the average trade estimates (93.0) while the cattle marketed in February were slightly above the average trade estimates (97.4). The cattle on feed for March 1, 2015 were estimated at 10.658 million head, 0.5 per cent below the March 2014 inventory numbers, and 0.5 per cent below the February 2015 numbers. The average trade estimates were expecting (99.6) while actual numbers were slightly below. There were no big surprises with February cattle placements just over one per cent below the average trade estimates, cattle marketed in February slightly above the trade estimates, and the cattle on feed numbers for March 1, 2015 slightly below the trade estimates. The report was overall close to trade estimates and likely will be viewed as neutral-to-slightly bullish. The numbers overall continue to show tight feeder cattle supplies.

The live (FOB feedlot) weighted average 5-area (Texas/Oklahoma/New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Iowa/Minnesota) weekly fed steer price in the U.S. was reported at US$163.55 per cwt, up US$2.29 per cwt from US$161.26 per cwt from the previous week, and up US$12.68 from US$150.87 per cwt the same week a year ago. The dressed (delivered basis) price for U.S. steers delivered to plants in the 5-area was reported at US$259.79 per cwt, up US$2.62 per cwt from US$257.17 per cwt the previous week, and up US$18.35 per cwt from US$241.44 per cwt the same week a year ago.

Average beef cutout values (Choice 600-900 lb.) for the week ending March 21 averaged US$246.07 per cwt, down slightly (US$0.55 per cwt) from US$246.59 per cwt from the previous week, but up 1.5 per cent from US$242.41 per cwt the same week a year ago.
U.S. beef production for the week ending March 21, totaled 423.5 million lb., down 1.1 per cent from 428.2 million lb. the previous week, and down 7.7 per cent from 458.8 million lb. the same

week a year ago. Cattle slaughter numbers were 518,000 head, down 1.1 per cent from 524,000 head the previous week, and down 10.5 per cent from 579,000 head the same week a year ago.

Friday Price Information

Product		This Week (March 20)	Week of: (March 13)
Canadian Dollar (closing rate US$)		.7950	.7819
U.S. Cash Cattle			
Thurs. Feeder Cattle (FC) Index (US$ per cwt)		213.97	213.62
Seven-day Weighted Average FC Index Wt. (lb.)		765	764
Live Fed 5-area Steer Price (US$ per cwt)		163.55	161.26
Feed Grains			
Barley	Lethbridge ($/tonne)	208.00	208.00
	($ per bu.)	4.53	4.53
Corn	Iowa State Average (CDN$/tonne)*	181.24	181.26
	(US$ per bu.) (current Wed. price)	3.66	3.60
	Omaha, NE (CDN$/tonne)*	183.22	192.84
	(US$ per bu.)	3.70	3.83
Futures			
	May Corn (US$ per bu.)	3.80½	3.80½
	July Corn (US$ per bu.)	3.92¾	3.88
	April Live Cattle (US$ per cwt)	158.350	154.275
	June Live Cattle (US$ per cwt)	150.475	145.275
	March Feeder Cattle (US$ per cwt)	214.875	213.125
	May Feeder Cattle (US$ per cwt)	215.400	209.725

Sources: Bank of Canada, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), ICE Futures Canada and USDA Livestock & Grain Market News

* conversion to CDN$ is based on Friday's CDN$ closing rate

For more information contact:

Brad Marceniuk, PAg
Provincial Livestock Economist
306-933-5098
brad.marceniuk@gov.sk.ca